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To: Examiner BATTULA
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Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/531,258

From: Kevin D. Williams

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Thank you, BACON & THOMAS, PLLC.

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Dear Examiner Battula,

Please find below our proposed amendment to the independent claims in this application.

We are open to suggestions to any changes to the claims which will satisfy your concerns about the previously used language in the claims.

If possible, please let me have your comments by October 21, 2009.

1. (Currently Amended) A security element comprising a cover layer having gaps in the form of characters or patterns forming visually and/or machine readable first information, wherein a printed image in the form of letters, numbers or geometrical figures forming visually and/or machine readable second information is printed within the gaps in register by a digital printing method, and further wherein the content of the second information within the gaps is different from the content of the first information of the respective gap within which the second information is disposed, and further wherein an information conveyed by an overall contour of the first information is different from an information

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~~conveyed by an overall contour of the second information the form of the letters, numbers or geometrical figures forming the second information is different from the form of the characters or patterns forming the first information.~~

24. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a security element according to claim 1, comprising first applying the cover layer with the gaps in the form of characters or patterns to a carrier film and then producing the printed image in the form of letters, numbers or geometrical figures within the gaps in register by digital printing, such that an information conveyed by an overall contour of the first information is different from an information conveyed by an overall contour of the second information ~~the form of the letters, numbers or geometrical figures forming the second information is different from the form of the characters or patterns forming the first information.~~